

Approved Meeting Minutes

Middle School Building Committee Meeting

March 17, 2014 – 8:15 am

BOE Conference Room, 3rd Floor Annex Building

5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT

Committee Members in Attendance:

Goldie Adele, Miriam Brody , Michael Brandt, Lou Coppola, Sr., Gary Johns (committee chairman), David Mikos, Bruce Morris , Walter Nester, Jr., Joseph Porto, Michelle Spader (committee secretary), Dyann Vissicchio (committee vice-chair)

Absent: None

Others in Attendance:

Shay Atluru of DTC, Kristine Carling, Joe Costa of Perkins Eastman, Dr. Robert Cronin, Phil Diana, Attorney Jeff Donofrio, Fritz Morris of Perkins Eastman, and Phil Piazza.

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Chairman, Gary Johns.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2014 was made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Joe Porto. The motion unanimously passed.

Clean Energy Task Force presentation did not occur, as no representative was present at the meeting.

A Safety and Security subcommittee was established. This committee is required as part of our state approval process. Representatives of the police, fire and public works departments would be part of this committee along with a few building committee members and school/Board of Ed officials. Chairman Johns announced that Lynn Sadosky agreed to join the subcommittee and he mentioned that Phil Piazza, principal of the middle school, and Phil Diana, Building and Grounds Supervisor for the Board of Ed along with Michelle Spader, who expressed interest along with the inclusion of Michael Brandt, and Goldie Adele would round out the Safety and Security Sub Committee. Motion to approve the members of the sub-committee made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Walter Nester. Motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Johns asked for an item to be added to the agenda regarding initial pre-referendum phase funding. Motion to add this topic to the agenda was made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Mariam Brody.

The Perkins Eastman team requested that additional funding be added into the pre-referendum phase in order to undertake certain testing now rather than wait until we are further into the project. The preliminary budget for the hybrid option already contains money for this testing. This is not an increase in project costs nor does it represent architectural services.

Joe Costa submitted a list that detailed the monies necessary in order to perform the various tests and inspections. Items include a preliminary hazardous material screening, Phase 1 site assessment (required by OSF), fire protection flow test, and sub-surface utility inspection, to name a few. The committee discussed each of the line items proposed, and after a lengthy discussion (and eliminating approximately \$25,000 of the ask) decided the requested appropriation would be \$199,250 rather than \$120,000.

Therefore, the resolution before the Board of Finance will be to approve an appropriation of \$199,250. This will be voted on by the Board of Finance at their Wednesday, March 19, 2014 meeting.

The motion to request \$199,250 was made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Goldie Adele.

There was a discussion regarding securing a domain name for the projects website. "NHMSproject.com" was the domain name that the committee was interested in pursuing. Sydney Smith, the Social Media Director at DTC, will connect with Michelle Spader regarding the project's Facebook page.

Fritz Morris explained that he is working with Phil Piazza and Kristine Carling to tighten up the square footage of the project and get some input from the committee on design. OSF will only reimburse the town for approximately 125,000 square feet of our project so we are trying to get as close to that number as possible for maximum reimbursement while also balancing that with the future programming needs of the school.

Miriam Brody is concerned that if we do not stay close to what we will be reimbursed for, residents will not be ok with it. The working committee will continue to refine the square footage. Johns said the committee is faced with competing interests. We want maximum financial contribution from the state for our project but we also cannot ignore the Ed Spec when trying to get to our target square footage.

Joe Porto shared his belief that we need to erect the building that we need; not the building that meets a particular square footage number. Porto believes we must listen to what Mr. Piazza feels the needs of the school are so that we can make an informed decision. The integrity of the programs is first and foremost in his mind, but he will not sacrifice any necessities in order to meet a square footage target.

Fritz Morris shared with the committee a successful test fit that Perkins Eastman had prepared based upon our current Ed Spec, programming needs and the square footage we have provided them.

The committee reviewed the preliminary plans to see where various components (such as the main office) would be located. Dave Mikos asked if Perkins Eastman could lay out the new design in an orientation so the committee could visualize where everything is proposed to be located. That way we can be convinced that it would be not only be aesthetically pleasing, but would also flow well in order to obtain the campus-like atmosphere we are trying to create with the high school. Dyann Vissicchio

agreed it would help her to visualize where they are proposing things be located by showing us where they are in reference to their current locations.

Morris asked the committee their thoughts on pitched roofs. The committee expressed that they are not interested in a flat roof, but understand that there are some areas (which house mechanicals) which may require a portion be flat. Phil Diana also emphasized that the more areas of the roof that can be pitched, the better.

The committee expressed a desire to see some exterior design images. It was also mentioned that we must make sure to leave room for 12-13 buses in pickup/drop off area, as half line up near middle school and half are near the high school. Perkins Eastman noted this bus area must be in their design.

The committee had promised to hold some of their meetings in the evening hours to allow the opportunity for more interested parties to attend the meetings. With that in mind, it was decided that the next meeting will be Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7 pm in the Board of Education conference room (third floor of the Annex).

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 am by Michelle Spader, seconded by Bruce Morris and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Spader
Committee Secretary